



HON. WM. HALE THOMPSON, MAYOR

*Mayor Thompson is recording another great achievement for Chicago; making good another pledge to the people, in straightening the Chicago River.*



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# STRAIGHTENING *the* CHICAGO RIVER



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WM. HALE THOMPSON  
*Mayor*

RICHARD W. WOLFE  
*Commissioner of Public Works*

LORAN D. GAYTON  
*City Engineer*

eenth Street east of and adjacent to said south branch of the Chicago River through a point at the intersection of the north line of Lot 8 in Block 7 of Canal Trustees New Subdivision of Blocks in the southeast Fractional Quarter of Section 21, Township 39 North, Range 14 East, with the present east line of said river.

The new channel and the easterly and westerly boundary lines thereof are shown and marked as such in Drawing No. 1, hereby made a part of this ordinance.

**SECTION 4. Excavation of New Channel.** The new channel shall be excavated the full width of such channel between the aforesaid boundary lines so that such channel, when so excavated, shall have a uniform width of two hundred (200) feet, except where bridge abutments occur, and shall have a depth of twenty-six (26) feet below the flow line for the width of one hundred (100) feet in the center of such channel, sloping up thence by straight lines to a depth of sixteen (16) feet below said flow line to or at each side or boundary line of said channel.

A cross-section of said new channel is shown and marked as such in Drawing No. 2, hereby made a part of this ordinance.

**SECTION 5. Dock-Walls.** Along each side or boundary line of said new channel, except where bridge abutments occur, shall be constructed retaining walls, commonly known as docks or dock-walls, to protect the banks of said new channel, which retaining or dock-walls shall consist of timber piling backed by sheet piling and capped with concrete and anchored substantially as shown in Drawing No. 2 which is hereby made a part of this ordinance, or in lieu of said construction shown in said Drawing No. 2 a timber dock or a concrete dock may be constructed.

Wherever the lines of the new channel are located within the old channel, pile crib dock-walls or timber crib dock-walls shall be constructed of the type or types shown in Drawing No. 2.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to elect and determine which of the aforesaid types of dock or retaining walls shall be used and it shall not be obligatory to use one and the same type along the entire boundaries of said new channel; provided, however, that the type selected by the Commissioner in each instance shall be the type which, according to good engineering practice, shall be adapted to the location where it is to be placed.

Said retaining or dock-walls shall be so constructed and located as to create at all points a channel two hundred (200) feet wide. Such retaining or dock-walls, anchors and other structures to retain the same, when completed shall become and be the property of the owners of the land upon which they are constructed and such owners shall repair and maintain the same under the provisions of the general ordinances of the City.

**SECTION 6. Old Channel to be Filled and Abandoned.** So much of the present channel of the river as shall be superseded and replaced by the new channel shall be filled and leveled to an elevation of seven feet above Chicago city datum, with sand, gravel, or other suitable material. Such filling shall be placed or deposited in such old channel in such manner as to avoid all unnecessary voids or interstices, the intent being that the manner of depositing such filling shall be such as to produce the least practicable amount of settlement or subsidence of the same. The said abandoned or superseded old channel shall be all that part of the present channel and all water area contiguous thereto or connected therewith lying easterly of the above described easterly line of the new channel. Said superseded or

abandoned old channel is shown and designated as such in Drawing No. 3, which is made a part hereof.

Upon the completion of the new channel and the abandonment of the old channel, the new channel, without any further action on the part of the City, shall become and be a **part of the south branch of the Chicago River** and the City hereby recognizes all rights in the United States of America, the State of Illinois, the Sanitary District and the City of Chicago or any other governmental agency, and the riparian rights of the owners of property abutting on the new channel, in and with reference to said new channel, such as have heretofore existed in and with reference to the old channel, and, upon the completion of the new channel and the abandonment of the old channel, the old channel shall thereby and without any further action on the part of the City cease to be a part of Harbor District No. 1 of the City and the new channel shall be added to and become a part of such Harbor District No. 1 of the City.

**SECTION 7. Acquisition of Property—Altering the Channel.** The City shall acquire by purchase, gift or condemnation, all the property lying between the easterly and the westerly lines of the new channel; also the right and easement for and during the period of the construction and completion of the dock-walls in, to, over and upon so much of the lands bordering and abutting upon either side of the new channel as may be necessary for the sole purpose of constructing the dock-walls along each side of said new channel, together with the necessary structures, posts, anchors and the like forming a part of and requisite to the construction and retention in place of said dock-walls; also the riparian or other rights of the owners of or parties having or claiming to have an interest in the land on either side of and bordering upon the old channel; also all property, rights, easements and other interests, by whatsoever name

called, in and to the bed of the old channel but only so far as such property or rights may be taken or damaged by the abandonment and discontinuance of the old channel by the withdrawal of the river therefrom and by the filling up of the same.

The Corporation Counsel of the City is hereby authorized and directed to bring and maintain all necessary suits, actions and proceedings in the corporate name of the City to acquire the property, or any part thereof in the preceding paragraph described, for the purposes aforesaid.

A description of the property to be acquired as aforesaid is contained in Schedule A, hereby made a part of this ordinance.

In order to carry out the full intent and purpose of this ordinance, the Baltimore and Ohio Terminal, the Rock Island, and the Rock Island and the New York Central, jointly, hereby agree to bring, in its or their own name or names and in its or their own behalf, such condemnation suit or suits as may be necessary to acquire, for itself or themselves, as the case may be, for railroad purposes, the property in the portions of the bed of the old channel that are allocated to them, respectively, by this ordinance; and the City hereby agrees that it will reimburse each of the aforesaid railroads for all Court costs, trial expenses (exclusive of attorneys' fees) and judgments arising out of or in connection with any such suit or suits in condemnation, so brought by the Baltimore and Ohio Terminal, the Rock Island, or the Rock Island and the New York Central, jointly.

**SECTION 8. City to Contract and Pay for Construction Work.** The City through the Commissioner shall make, let and enter into any and all contracts necessary for the construction of the proposed